

Appln. No. 10/671,214
Amendment dated April 25, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed January 31, 2005

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is courteously requested in order to place all claims in this application in allowable condition and/or to place the non-allowed claims in better condition for consideration on appeal.

Claims 1, 6, 8 through 11, 18, and 20 through 28 remain in this application. Claims 2 through 5, 7, 12 through 17, and 19 have been cancelled. No claims have been withdrawn or added.

Paragraph 1 of the Office Action

Claims 22 through 23, 25 and 26 have been objected to for the informalities noted in the Office Action.

Claims 23, 25 and 26 have been amended in a manner believed to clarify any informalities in the language. The requirements of claim 22 incorporated into claim 21 have also been changed as suggested in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the objection to claims 23, 25 and 26 is therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action

Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mueller.

Claim 21 has been amended to include the requirements of claim 22, which was indicated as being allowable, and therefore claim 21, as well as claims 23 and 24, are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claim 21 is therefore respectfully requested.

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Paragraphs 4 through 9 of the Office Action

Claims 1, 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt in view of Hawkins.

Claims 8 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt in view of Hawkins and further in view of Glauber.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt in view of Hawkins and further in view of Greene.

Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt in view of Hawkins and further in view of Collie.

Claim 18 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt in view of Hawkins.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the requirements of claim 7, which was indicated as being allowable over the prior art, and therefore claim 1, as well as claims 6, 8 through 11, and 18, are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections of claims 1, 6, 8 through 11, and 18 is therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraph 10 of the Office Action

Paragraph 10 of the Office Action states that claims 7 and 22 through 24 would be allowable if written into independent form with the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The above amendment incorporates the limitations of claim 22 into the recitation of claim 21, and therefore claim 21 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 23 and 24, by virtue of their dependency from

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amended claim 21, are also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Paragraph 11 of the Office Action

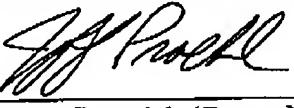
Claims 25 through 28 have been allowed.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

LEONARD & PROEHL, Prof. L.L.C.

By 
Jeffrey A. Proehl (Reg. No. 35,987)
LEONARD & PROEHL, Prof. L.L.C.
3500 South First Avenue Circle, Suite 250
Sioux Falls, SD 57105-5807
(605)339-2028 FAX (605)336-1931

Date: April 25, 2005